

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 00908 161143Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
AID-05 TRSE-00 PC-01 /069 W  
-----040683 170218Z /61  
R 161130Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3583  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, DR  
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BEGINS

1. CAMPAIGN FOR MAY 16 NATIONAL ELECTIONS TO ELECT PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, NEW SENATORS, DEPUTIES, LOCAL MAYORS AND CITY COUNCILS OFFICIALLY BEGAN FEB 15. CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION ISSUED PROCLAMATION OFFICIALLY DECLARING ELECTIONS, TO BE HELD MAY 16, AND ADVISING THAT ALL CANDIDACIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 31.
2. GOVERNMENT REFORMISTA PARTY IS STAGING TODAY FIRST OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY-ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE-WITH AUTOCADE THROUGH SANTO DOMINGO. MAJOR OPPOSITION DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRD) PLANS SIMILAR FETE FEB 18.
3. CAMPAIGN KICK OFF WAS ACCOMPANIED BY STATEMENTS PUBLISHED TODAY OF ASSURANCES FROM ALL SECTORS THAT CAMPAIGN WOULD TAKE PLACE IN PEACEFUL CLIMATE. VICE PRESIDENT GOICO MORALES WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED TO POLITICAL PARTIES ALL GUARANTEES NECESSARY FOR CAMPAIGN AND MAY ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN MOST DEMOCRATIC AND CIVILIZED MANNER POSSIBLE.

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ARMED FORCES SECRETARY BEAUCHAMP ALSO GAVE ASSURANCES THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT NOR OPPOSITION SHOULD FEAR THAT ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT CARRY OUT OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CAMPAIGN. HE REITERATED STATEMENTS THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE FREE, THAT ARMED FORCES WOULD OBEY LAWS, RESPECT CIVILIAN RULE AND MAINTAIN PEACE DURING CAMPAIGN.

4. IN ADDITION, REFORMISTA PARTY URGED THAT ADHERENTS REFRAIN FROM CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES WHICH CONFLICT IN TIME AND LOCALE WITH THOSE OF OPPOSITION TO AVOID PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS. AND PRD PARTY PRESIDENT SALVADOR JORGE BLANCO WAS QUOTED IN PRESS AS DECLARING THAT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN COUNTRY IS POSITIVE LEADING HIM TO THINK ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD DEVELOP NORMALLY, HE EXPRESSED ALSO HIS BELIEF THAT ARMED FORCES AND POLICE WOULD ACT WITH PROFESSIONALISM, MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER AND REMAIN APOLITICAL.

5. COMMENT. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT POLITICAL CLIMATE IS INDEED QUITE CALM AS CAMPAIGN BEGINS AND THAT ALL SIDES INTEND TO KEEP CAMPAIGN PEACEFUL AND FAIR. THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME VIOLENCE, HOWEVER, IN PERIOD PRECEDING OFFICIAL OPENING OF CAMPAIGN AND WE WILL BE ALERT TO ANY PERTURBATIONS IN ATMOSPHERE AS CAMPAIGN HEATS UP.

HURWITCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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